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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/728,647	12/01/2000	Shaikh Ghaleb Mohammad Yassin Alhamad	VI-CIP 5	5958

7590

01/21/2003

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EXAMINER

WATKINS III, WILLIAM P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1772

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/728,647

Applicant(s)

ALHAMAD, SHAIKH GHALEB
MOHAMMAD YASSIN

Examiner

William P. Watkins III

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12 November 2002 has been entered.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stock (U.S. 3,825,465) in view of Kinney (U.S. 3,128,864).

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Stock teaches an expanded sheet material which may be made of plastics or paper or cardboard and which may be filled with tar products and an aggregate such as plaster (col. 2, lines 10-40). Kinney teaches the use of an expanded sheet material where the slits are transverse to the longitudinal direction of the sheet and intersect the edge of the sheet in order to be expanded into a three dimensional structure which has great strength and stiffness (page 2, lines 25-35, Figure 1). A compact intermediate form of the product is taught (Figures 3 and 2). The instant invention claims an expanded sheet material with tar and aggregate. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select a combination of tar and plaster from the possible coating and filler materials taught by Stock as options. It further would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute the transverse slits of Kinney for the longitudinal slits of Stock in order to produce a strong and still structure because of the teachings of Kinney. Variation of the taught sheet materials with these coating and fillers would also have been obvious. Transportation of construction materials to a job site in a compact form for field assembly is well known in the construction art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to transport

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the unexpanded mesh of Stock in view of Kinney in a common intermediate compact sheet material storage form such as a roll for field assembly and joining with aggregate and tar in order to have ease of transportation to the construction job site, in view of the above noted well known practice.

4. Applicant's arguments filed 12 November 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the use of the words "net material" instead of sheet defines over the prior art because the CAFC in an appeal of a related parent case has determined that the material of Stock is a much thicker and less flexible material than the net material claimed in the application that was appealed. The U.S. 5,871,857 patent, which issued as a result of the appeal, has specific thickness limitations in the base claims, which the CAFC relied upon to make the finding of the claimed net material being different than the sheet material of Stock. The instant claims do have this thickness limitation. It is therefore not clear that the instant net material is the same as that found as being different than Stock by the CAFC.

Regarding the transportation of rolls, the examiner contends that is well known to transport construction materials to

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worksites in compact forms. The examiner will supply a reference to support that slitting and expansion of sheet materials can be done as separate steps, if applicant continues to traverse this finding.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Watkins III whose telephone number is 703-308-2420. The examiner works an increased flex time schedule, but can normally be reached Monday through Friday, 11:30 A.M. through 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time. The examiner returns all calls within one business day unless an extended absence is noted on his voice mail greeting.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 703-308-4251. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0651.



WW/ww
January 13, 2003

**WILLIAM P. WATKINS III
PRIMARY EXAMINER**